Saint Joseph's College, Rensselaer, Indiana

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The Observer

— opinion news features sports stuff

SAINT JOSEPH'S ALCOHOL POLICY PREDICTING CHANGES

News Briefs

Fundraiser Dance

On February 13 a dance was held to raise money for the American Cancer Society. The dance was organized by the men of Seifert with the aid of Steve Santo of Marriott Dining. Approximately \$500.00 was raised by a meal give-up program.

Saint Pat's Day Parade

On Saturday March 14, Saint Joseph's will be participating for its thirteenth year in the Chicago St. Pat's Day Parade. All are invited to participate by meeting at noon on Dearborn Street in downtown Chicago. A pizza party will follow at Ranalli's Restaurant at 138 S. Clinton. Contact the Office of Parent and Alumni Relations for more information.

Lecture Series

The third lecture in the Rudolph P. Bierberg Lecnure Series will be given by Bruce Lescher, Ph.D. The title of the lecture will be "Spiritual Journeying in the Senior Years."

Feast of Saint Joseph

March 19 will be the Feast of Saint Joseph, our patron saint.

Faculty Promotions

Robert Pfaff and Anne-Marie Egan have recently been promoted to full professor. Also promoted was Theresa Massoels. by Julia Garcia

According to the Report by the Commission on Substance Abuse at Colleges and Universities, 42% of all college students report that they engage in binge drinking. Because of this and other startling findings, "the Commission has concluded that abusive drinking is the major and pervasive substance abuse problem on our nation's campuses." Coupled with the reality of underage drinking, universities and colleges around the nation are taking action against what they see as a major problem, threatening America's youth.

The prevalence of alcohol abuse has prompted universities and colleges to enact new policies. For example, at the University of Delaware, parents will be notified when their underage son or daughter is caught drinking. Last year, two Saint Joseph's College students crashed their cars on campus while under the influence of alcohol, convincing members of the Faculty Student Life Committee and Student Affairs that a change was needed.

William Manis, Vice-President of Student Affairs, drew up a draft of proposed changes to the current alcohol policy in order to "close current loopholes in the current policy." "If students were drinking responsibly, there would be no problem," stated Manis. The alcohol policy, for the most

part, remains the same, as Saint Joseph's College "must comply with the State of Indiana and Federal laws concerning the use of alcohol." The proposed changes largely affect the operating procedures of the current policy. Zane Donaldson, Senate President, commented, "From a punitive standpoint, I think the current system can be very effective. As far as specific changes, I don't see anything that can be beneficial over what is already in place...I think it should be up to the students to put an end to the damage and inappropriate behavior that is taking place."

The first change sug-

gested is that there will be "suspension of five class days for any violation of the alcohol policy which involves quantity... [and there is] reasonable belief that distribution to underage persons [was] involved". According to Manis, this proposal is aimed at ending circumstances where there are "large quantities of alcohol, and people have the expectation of getting drunk".

"A fine of \$500 per keg or equivalent quantity of beverage alcohol to be assessed should the quantity be found in a public area" is the second part of the proposal. In essence, an entire floor will be fined if, for example, a keg is found by security in a shower

continued on page 3

Men's Basketball Team Losing More than Games

by Peggy McLeish

Two players from the Saint Joseph's College men's basketball team have recently been dismissed and one has been suspended indefinitely. The three players, Michael Hicks, Tyrone Parks, and Chad Patterson, are from the starting line up of the men's team. According to the players and the men's head coach, Mr. Bill Bland, the dismissals and the suspension did not derive from isolated events, but were in fact culminations of ongoing altercations between players and the coach. According to Coach Bland, the actions were due to a "combination of things that came to a head."

The action taken on the three players were separate incidents. Chad Patterson's dismissal was an indirect result of an argument between the player and Coach Bland at the Wisconsin Parkside game on Saturday, January 31. According to Patterson, he had become "fed up" with the less

than congenial sentiment that Coach Bland had shown to the team. The dismissal occurred the following week after Patterson had missed a practice, not completed the three running sessions assigned by the coach as discipline for missing practice, and then kept on the bench for the next game. According to Patterson, Coach Bland told the player in conference on February 12, "You go your way, I'll go my way."

Mike Hicks, also dismissed from the team, said "Little things gradually led up to my being off the team." On Monday, February 9, Hicks missed a practice and a running session that was given to him by Coach Bland as discipline for alleged tardiness to the bus leaving the hotel at the Northern Kentucky game on February 7. According to Hicks, he was required to return to his home for reasons regarding his family on Saturday night after the team's return. Upon his return to campus he learned from a peer that he had been

dismissed from the team.

Tyrone Parks, who has been suspended indefinitely from the team, felt that the his suspension came from an incident that could have been easily explained. According to Parks, disciplinary action of one running session was also given to him for his alleged tardiness to the bus at the Northern Kentucky game on February 7. Parks did not run the following Monday morning as required by the coach because he felt it was unjust. After meeting with Coach Bland, Parks was suspended indefinitely.

All three players have expressed desire to play basketball and their previous commitment to the Saint Joseph's men's basketball program. According to Hicks, the players had "great expectations going into this season." Despite noted problems within the team itself, players commented, "When we won the game, we won it together."

Mardi Gras: The parade of a lifetime

by Rachel Barlage

As all of us here at Saint Joe know, yesterday was Ash Wednesday, the first Ash Wednesday came Mardi Gras, the great festival of indulgence, revelry and debauchery. For those of you who have never experienced Mardi Gras first hand, I urge you to take a road trip down to New Orleans at least once in your lifetime. I've been to New Orleans during the Mardi Gras season three times, and I plan to return again and again.

The city of New Orleans is beautiful and fascinating. The historical and colorful homes are reason enough to travel to Louisiana, and riding on a trolley to the parade sites is definitely a great way to travel. The weather in New Orleans is also much warmer than Indiana weather at this time of the year. This year, my fellow Mardi Gras travellers and I basked in the warm sun on a huge porch and made friends with partiers from Texas, Florida, and New York.

Of course, the most outstanding features of the Mardi Gras festival are the parades. The exquisite floats, beautiful costumes, and yes, hundreds of thousands of beads, cups, and toys of all kinds (especially naughty ones) being hurled at your head give parade-

goers an unforgettable experience. There really is nothing like it. When you get home and dump your beads on the floor day of Lent. But before to sort out, admire, and trade with your friends, it's even more exciting than Halloween when you were in the fourth

At the parades, street vendors sell red and yellow striped Dr. Seuss hats, giant inflatable glow-in-the-dark swords, neon jump ropes, and cotton candy. The best part of the parades is bonding with local children, some of whom sit in ten-feet high chairs with nets to catch beads. Sharing strands of beads with the kids is probably the most rewarding part of the trip. Their smiles and breathless thank yous when you hand them a particularly flashy set of beads are great.

Of course, the party doesn't end when the last float drives by. The bars on Bourbon Street are the next stop. But be warned. Mardi Gras is not for the weak of heart. The crowds on Bourbon street can definitely be intimidating, especially if you get separated from your friends (whose hands you are holding with all of your might) in the swarms of people.

Remember, Mardi Gras is the biggest party in the world, and everyone is invited. But once you get used to being smooshed between thousands of strangers, even the crowds become exciting. Actually, because you all share the same goals of getting drunk and having the time of your life, you have a bond with everyone else,

and you will probably have some pretty interesting conversations with people you may never see again.

Besides, the bars all have live bands, and the drinks all have names like Hurricane, Hand Grenade, and Shark Attack. Wouldn't you stand in line for a Shark Attack, a clear drink that turns red when the bartender plunges a seemingly bleeding shark into your cup? Mardi Gras gives the young at heart a chance to let loose, get wild, and feel completely justified in doing so. Why? Because no matter what craziness you decide to participate in, there will always be someone else who goes a step further. Someone will strip down to his boxers in the middle of Bourbon Street, take off her bra and flash other parade-goers before the floats show up, or kiss a stranger for some long, purple beads. The only thing you have to worry

Letters to the Editor

I am high on SIC students at the moment and want to tell you about it. The other Friday I was in a tight spot. An elderly couple had made arrangements to have some college students help them move. But at the appointed time no one showed. Nor did anyone show the entire afternoon. By evening the couple was quite upset and sour on SIC. They called me. They had to be out of their apartment and had planned on the help. At this late date they weren't sure where to turn. Besides they had bought two barrels of KFC chicken to feed the helpers. It was more chicken than they could eat in a long long time.

Well, I told them students are busy, and it was Friday night. Finding some helpers on the spur of the moment might be tough. But I would try. On my way to the cafe for supper I spotted 5 guys I knew from the track team. I told them the predicament. I think before I even asked, they had said sure, we'll help.

Forty-five minutes later, the couple were in their new apartment downstairs and were mighty appreciative. Myself, I was really happy with the generous spirit of those five guys.

Then I remembered this year, since I became coordinator of Campus Ministry, I have had to ask students for help on four or five occulous. I have always found the same, generous spirit. I am ready to lead the cheer for SIC students! Sincerely,

Fr. Jim Challancin Chaplain

**Correction: In the last two issues the sports pictures were taken by Charles Martin.

about is having fun.

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ERS & JEERS

- *Cheers to warm weather in February
- *Cheers to Senior of the Year Candidates

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- *Cheers to Mardi Gras
- *Cheers to Careerfest '98
- *Cheers to Spring Break

- *Jeers to crowded bowling alleys
- *Jeers to scapegoats
- *Jeers to wasps
- *Jeers to reality
- *Jeers to Monday morning tests

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Alcohol Policy

continued from page 1 stall. "We, as moral human beings, should be appalled by the activities that take place in our dorms on a daily basis...we should attempt to hold each other responsible for our actions...ridicule by peers can be the worst punishment possible," added Donaldson.

The third proposal states that "participants in a disturbance where alcohol is present or served will be issued a letter of warning at appropriate level [but] no fine will be imposed if the individual is at pre-Level 1." "To me, a disturbance is when sinks are ripped off of the wall...and this proposal would close the loophole that occurs when people drink with immunity in someone else's room or dorm," stated Manis.

The fourth proposal would "replace Level 4 with Level 5 sanction," reducing the current alcohol policy to only four levels. The fifth proposal would introduce community service to Level 1 and 2 of the alcohol policy. Currently, only Levels 3 and 4 are obligated to perform community service.

For the most part, there have been mixed reactions over the proposals. Proposals four and five have had support from the Faculty Student Life Committee, while only proposal five has been viewed amicably by students. "I support a change to the policy that would mandate a greater number of community service hours earlier in the level system. Such a change would demand that students take and learn more responsibility," stated Michael Nichols, SA President.

"I feel that the problems lie within the student body more than with the administration...I think that increasing fines and having stiffer penalties will not stop the vandalism, but only make things worse for administration and students," stated Lori McKinney, SA Vice-President.

On March 2, there will be a Faculty Student Life Committee meeting to further discuss the proposals.

Sno-coming Queen and King Elected

by Natalie Berenda

Sno-coming wrapped up "I Hate Winter Week". the second week of February. The royal court was announced during halftime of the men's basketball game on February 14. Nominees for the freshmen class were Kate Lizzi and Greg Peters. Sophomore candidates were Tamara and Will Bumpers DelPrincipe. Princess, Cari Carping and Prince, Steve Baranowski were the junior candidates. "I was excited to be a Sno-coming candidate and surprised I was nominated," Bumpers said. Baranowski shared the same feeling,"I was

by Maureen Egan

The 1998 Senior of the

Year Candidates have been

announced. They are: Julia

Garcia, Julie Lanoue,

Chuck Carmody, Liz Saw-

yer, and Rachel Barlage.

These individuals were

chosen by their peers in the

senior class voting process.

Initial candidates had to be

a senior with a cumulative

grade point average of 3.25

and above. The senior class

then had an opportunity to

vote on those individuals.



photo by Jenny Palecek
Tom Williams and DeAnn
Hazzard celebrate as King
and Queen of Sno-coming.

honored that the student body would think of me as a representative of the junior class.

Senior nominees were Rachel Hempel and Chad Novak, Julie Lanoue and William O'Donovan, DeAnn

will compete in an individual

interview process on Satur-

day, March 21, 1998, Inter-

viewers will be members of

the Alumni Association

Board of Directors. Faculty

and staff have also been given

the promutity to write let-

ters of recommendation for

any and all candidates. The

winner will be announced at

the Senior Dinner which will

be held on Friday, April 3,

1998 in the Ballroom. This

award began in 1967 and has

been presented every year

Hazzard and Tom Williams. Williams and Hazzard were crowned King and Queen. All the candidates seemed pleased to be nominated. "I was very honored that I was chosen by the student body. It really didn't matter to me who won," Lanoue said.

Annual Phonathon Planning Begun

by Maureen Egan

The annual Phonathon will take place March 22-26 in the Halleck Center Ballroom. This event helps to raise money for the College's Annual Fund which helps with such expenses as: athletics, student services, financial aid, academics, operations and maintenance.

Each year students volunteer a few hours in the evening to help with these phone calls during Phonathon Week. Cash prizes are awarded to the top callers each evening. This year we've added some FAN-TASTIC prizes which include: free pizzas, full-body Swedish massage, 1 hour of body accupressure, free sub coupons, free Crazy Bread coupons from Little Caesar's, free video rentals, free pop, free oil changes, free tanning sessions, and a variety of restaurant gift certificates. To volunteer call the Alumni

The top five vote recipients since its inception. Activities Planned to Celebrate Lenten Season

by Amy Chester

Campus Ministry is sponsoring several activities for Lent. A Unity Celebration of Easter Faith is planned, as well as two masses on Ash Wednesday. The Unity Celebration of Easter Faith on April 14 will be a gathering of students, faculty, and staff from various Christian denominations who will be celebrating their shared faith in the Risen Christ. For Ash Wednesday, on February 25, mass is scheduled at 4:30 and at 9:00

p.m.

Senior of the Year Nominees Announced

A Passion Play written by Junior Steve Giles' mother will be performed on April 7 and 8 at 8:00 p.m. in the Chapel. Giles will direct the play himself. The actors will be students and staff from Saint Joseph's College.

A Service of the Shadows will incorporate both Scripture readings and songs. During the service, the Saint Joseph's College choir will perform. The service will be held April 8 at 8:00 p.m. in the Chapel. Jeremy Hoy will be leading the Service.

This year will be Campus Ministry's first attempt at performing a Living Way of the Cross. During the Living Way of the Cross, the participants are walked through all the stations of the Cross as Jesus did. It will take place at 8:00 p.m. on March 31 in the Chapel. The Candlelight Way of the Cross will be held on March 3 at 8:00 p.m. in the Grotto.

On Tuesday March 24 at 8:00 p.m., Campus Ministry is sponsoring a Communal Celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation in the Chapel.

Senate Update

At the February 23 meeting, the S.A. Constitution was amended to create a Committee of Campus Clubs, require dorm governors to hold at least one dorm meeting a month, and clarify the mission of the Student Senate. A proposal by the Rape Victim Advocacy Group was also discussed. Revisions were suggested and another draft of the procedures will be presented.

Upcoming Events: "Kiss the Girls" will be showing Thursday at 9 p.m. and Friday at 7 p.m. in the Science Auditorium. Sunday, March 1st, comedian Buzz Sutherland will be performing outside Core XI.

The S.A. Officers will be in Gallagher Hall's 1st floor lounge on Wednesday, March 4th from 8-9 p.m. They will be answering questions from the dorm residents about security, dorm fines, or any other student concerns.

Hicks Off to NYC

by Natalie Berenda

Senior Andy Hicks was the winner of the annual Suitcase Party. The Suitcase Party was a part of SUB's annual "I Hate Winter Week". The Suitcase Party was held on February 12 in the Halleck Center Ballroom. This year's raffle was for an all expense paid trip to New York City. The trip consists of four days and three nights in NYC.

Hicks will be accompanied by K.J. Falk. They plan to go on the trip sometime in April. "I am excited. It's going to be a blast. We will check out the town and the sights," said Hicks.

All in all the Suitcase Party was a success this year. The turnout of the student body was more than expected.

Features

Core Eight Students Learn through Experience

by Heather Hagan

"By studying other cultures, the student gains a new perspective and insight into the institutions and thought of the Western world." So reads the course description of Core Eight in the college catalogue.

The focus of Core Seven and Eight is International Studies. Currently students are studying Latin America - specifically Mexico, Costa Rica, and Brazil. But rather than just learning about these countries from books or movies, students will actually be getting a taste of the Latin American Culture — literally.

The Core Eight faculty is currently in the process of planning a trip to Chicago, during which their students will break into groups and sample various Latin American restaurants.

· "So far the countries we have found restaurants for

fident of finding a Brazilian web-based presentation. place too before it's all over,". said Core Eight professor Brian Capouch.

In addition to the Chicago trip, which will be taking place sometime after Spring Break, professors have several other activities planned for their classes.

Jody Watkins'-core class - tion. is working on country study mester, students will be researching the Latin American country of their choice and tracking their progress in a journal to be displayed at the end of the semester.

Capouch's class is also doing individual projects regarding Latin American culture. They are also working on a website which will contain various papers they've written over the course of the semester. The site will also

include Mexico, Guatemala, contain parts of their project Panama, El Salvador, Colum- presentations, which lend bia, and Cuba, and we're con- themselves to multimedia,

> Piper Hodson's class will be taking a different approach when students study Carnival, or Mardi Gras as it is known in the U.S. In January, Core Eight students heard a lecture given by Professor Paul Dixon of Purdue University regarding this celebra-

"[Dixon] said that Carnijournals. Throughout the se-val is an exuberant celebration that revolves around life and death," explained Hodson.

> "It is a celebration of our brief lives. Dixon argued that Carnival is a defense mechanism in which celebrants confront their fear of death by saying to death, 'I know you'll eventually win, but in the meantime, you stand there and watch me have my fun." What a wonderful cause for celebration!



photo by Cindy Stanko

View from the

Looney Bin

The Beginning of the End by Heidi Jugovic

If newspapers had soundtracks, the Jaws theme would be playing right now. First a couple of hesitant notes in the distance. You know it's coming, but there is nowhere to run. Because the danger is distant but inevitable, you think you can face its arrival calmly. After all, if there is nothing you can do, why worry?

Then the music speeds up. Suddenly the inevitability of the end is no longer a comfort. You begin to think of futile schemes to escape the predator.

Finally you see the "it" in the water. Time speeds up, but your movements seem to slow to a crawl. The end is coming fast. Time is a cruel enemy that seems to bring the end on even more quickly.

You always knew it would come, but now that it is here, the end is harder to accept than you had ever imagined. The music reaches its final crescendo with a boom.

Are there sharks in Lake Banet or have the voices in my head finally pushed me over into total lunacy?

No, it's just that I'm graduating soon, and the dream of my four years at Saint Joe's is closing with a nightmare's rapidity.

It's not that I haven't tried to treasure my time here. It did not take long for me to fall in love with this place, and once I knew how wonderful these four years would be, I tried to hang on to every mo-

But trying to hang on does not slow time even one tick of the clock. Time does not care how desperately you love your friends. Time does not care how happy just driving into campus makes you after summer break. Time does not care that these have been the best years of your

Time just keeps pushing you toward the next years...for better or worse? Who knows. Knowing that it is time to leave does not make the leaving hurt any less.

So you can know the end is coming, you can know the end is a good thing, you can make the most of the time you have, and you can look forward to the future with optimism...but it still hurts.

The weird thing is that I am glad that it hurts: I am so glad that I have lived these four years in a way that it breaks my heart to move on. I am so glad that I will regret leaving because my stay was so wonderful and exciting and unforgettable.

We all have to live in the present, and living is much easier if you choose to look forward to the future, but I feel very sorry for those who do not regret the people and places and experiences they leave in the past just a little.

So seniors, I hope you are hurting a little right now. I hope you are excited about your future like I am, but I hope this end will not be entirely an easy one for you. Maybe graduation should not be seen as a shark in the water, but I hope you do not see it as merely a blessed release.

Endings should hurt a little if you care about what you are leaving no matter how exciting what you are moving on to is. And if you don't care, you have lost more than you can possibly imagine.

Hurt a little for me. I will be hurting thinking of leaving

Spring Break Offers a Plethora of Activities for School-Weary Students at them. Perhaps slaving at a with some friends who attend

It is almost that time of the year, Spring Break, After endless weeks of being at school, when the only thing to look forward to is the weekend, the opportunity has finally presented itself to have a week of sanity (or, if you prefer, insanity).

A time that is free from professors, homework, and even dorm life. So still need something to do over Spring Break? Just look at what a few SJC students are doing.

Some students are taking a break from school work to go home and find a summer job. Some of us already have a summer job planned, like Patrick Guyette who is going to go take a drug test for a federal job. Sounds like an interesting thing to do over spring break.

Others already have jobs and have obligations to work job over Spring Break doesn't sound like that much fun, but I am sure the pay check is nice.

And if you don't have a job to worry about, what could you do? Well traveling is always nice. Karri Starkman and Juliette Greenberg are spending their vacation in sunny California.

If you don't want to go to California because of El Nino, you can go the opposite direction like Anne Trotta, who is going to New

Several students are travelling to Mobile, Alabama to help build houses with Habitat for Humanity. Junior Kathy Jarowicz said, "It's going to be a blast. Habitat has always been rewarding and fun."

Senior DeAnn Hazzard will be travelling to Cancun Valparaiso, Hazzard says that the best thing about Spring Break will be relaxing on the beach and drinking margaritas in the sun.

Other students will be basking in the sunshine in Florida and the Caribbean.

Now, if you are totally stressed out and just want to go home and relax with your friends, that is great to. It may lack the excitement of New York or the benefits of money, but it does have a nice charm.

For me it is home, home again, and I don't even have to close my eyes and clap my shoes together. Perhaps I will search for that summer job, travel to some cool sights, or just vegitate on the couch with my dog. Who knows? That is one exciting thing about Spring Break for me. I won't know until I get there.

Spring Break

He Said:

by Zack Milito

As the semester draws closer to the mid-way point, many things weigh heavy on the minds of students across campus. For some it is the stress and anxiety that comes with cramming for exams. For others, however, it is something much more uplifting and welcomed. I can be writing of only one thing: Spring Break.

It is a week of revitalization and well-deserved time away from this burned-up corn husk of a campus we at Saint Joe's call home for the majority of the year. Granted, there are times when the trees appear to be alive and the grass can be identified as something other than brown astro turf. But we can all readily agree that now is not one of them. Spring Break is a time when students are reminded that the sun does still exist, that green is the natural color of plants, and that people like us are having a good time somewhere.

That is why Spring Break cannot be taken lightly. Seriously, it is an opportunity that only comes around once a year but that should be planned for year-round. Of course, you're bound to hear a few run-of-the-mill excuses like "I don't have any money" or "There's always tomorrow." Well, kids, in the immortal words of Apollo Creed in the film Rocky III, "THERE IS NO TOMORROW!!!"

What have all of you been doing around campus since October that would stifle the desire to go somewhere on Spring Break? Whatever it is, I'd like to know, because I for one have been planning this year's Spring Break ever since I left Panama City Beach last Spring Break. Everything from where I wanted to go to how I was going to pay for it has weighed heavily on my mind for almost 12 months.

I still keep my Panama City Beach "Food World" Advantage Card because I know I will once again save 16 cents on "Staff" brand frozen pizzas. Sometimes I wake up nights in excited frenzies from tantalizing dreams of riding my 3-person inflatable baseball glove up and down the white crested waves in the Gulf of Mexico.

Sure, not everyone shares these vivid fantasies of Florida's sandy-white beaches, lazy days spent lounging in the ocean, and exciting nights at Harpoon Harry's Tiki Lounge and Mud Wrestling Pit. For others it may be the thought of a 7-day cruise or sampling traditional ethnic cuisine in one of Mexico's many tiny resort villas. Or perhaps it is a vision of whitewater rafting through the Grand Canyon by day and counting stars under Arizona's clear desert sky by night.

Whatever you plan on doing for Spring Break (and I hope it's bigger and brighter than peddling Corn-Nuts and Yoohoo at some convenience store back home), my only advice to you is "Make every second count!" Before you know it, your college days will be over and the most exciting Spring Break memories you'll have will be of the five days you spent in the bathroom because you decided to try your father's home-made enchilads

She Said:

by Kathy Jarowicz

This spring break I'm going to Mobile, Alabama with Habitat for Humanity. Mobile is a very poor part of Alabama, and the group is going to be staying in Sunday school classrooms in the inner city of Mobile. There are a total of 17 people going. We are going to be working on new construction and doing whatever needs to be done.

I have gone with Habitat for my past two Spring Breaks, and it has been a blast. It is so much fun watching a house being built and knowing that you are part of it. It is also very cool to work with the Habitat families who are going to be buying the house. It is inspiring to listen to some of the families because they are so grateful, nice and hard-working.

It is very rewarding to know that you helped someone and that you have spent your time doing something nice for a complete stranger. The other thing that makes Habitat so great is that it is so much fun. It is great to help people and work hard, but it is also great to go sight-seeing and travel to cool places.

We always go sight-seeing after work, and we stop places on the way home. This year we are going to go to New Orleans. We will also have food common to the area and see what makes that area unique.

It is always one big learning experience that is fun. You get to meet new people and bond during the long trip. I really can't wait for Spring Break because I need a break from classes, and I love going on the Habitat trips. I really think we are in for a great time, awesome weather, and a time to make closer friends. I am really looking forward to spending time with my good friends and building a hous in Alabama.

Senate Seeks Greater Student Participation

by Natalie Berenda

Unless you attend class and senate meetings, you are probably unaware of what topics are being discussed. This lack of communication makes it difficult to plan events and deal with complaints among students.

Class of the rs and senate members are working to get students involved. "Our main goal is just to get the senior class involved in the activities that go on and to have fun together," Senior class president, Mary Zurek, stated.

The senior class spensored Senior Bowling Night.

The junior class, under the direction of Duane Marks, will sponsor the Spring Formal. The sophomore class is selling class t-shirts. The sophomore class president is Sarah Grubb.

Freshman president Sheridan Harvey said his class will be selling shot glasses with class logos and dates on them. "We hope to raise the attendance rate for class meetings and all school functions," Harvey explained.

Student participation is a big concern to all officers. Justin governor Jill Lagerhausen said that senate needs to hear student complaints and ideas in order to deal with the subject at hand.

"We only get feedback from people in senate. We don't get a lot of feedback from other students. I think President Mike Nichols is trying to turn that around by having his convenience hour and by putting the confinent box in the Day Student Lounge." Lagerhausen said.

Nichols will be available to discuss student concerns between two and three p.m. Monday through Friday in his office on Halleck third floor.

Phase is Phased

by Lisa Phillips

We have no yearbook. No cool pictures of people we know to remind us of the year we shared here at SJC, no corny captions to laugh at, and no events captured forever in the pages of a well worn hardback cover.

Phase (for those of you who don't know, that was the title of Saint Joe's yearbook) is no more. Not saying that the 301 (that's out of 1,050 students and staff for last year) people who had their pictures in the yearbook last year would actually miss it.

Heck, only 65 issues were sold. No wonder the project was cancelled. Who would actually want a bit of college history to look back on in the years to come, anyway?

Certainly not me, as I sit here, watching my college years fly by in a haze of five page papers and Mountain Dew induced stupors.

I don't need a little documentation to help me remember and put things in perspective ten years from now (Yeah right, who am I kidding? I need documentation to remember what happened ten minutes ago).

Yearbooks do more than collect dust on a shelf in the back of your closet. They are a bit of you, a bit of us, to remember how crazy and difficult and frustrating and wonderful college life can be, and is.

Not having a yearbook is like going on vacation without taking any pictures. It doesn't mean much if you can't look back on it. If you get a yearbook, maybe you'll even think you learned something, in between the all-nighters, broken washing machines and leftover cafe meals.

Observer Sports Pumas End their Season Positively

by Sarah Klusek

The men's basketball team knows that there is no "I" in Team. They stay together through the good and bad, the wins and losses.

On Thursday, February 12th, the Pumas fell to the 8th

Anasinski 10.

Yates has been playing year." very well this season.

When asked if their was much of a change from playing at the high school level Yates said, "As a freshman," I just want to play within the go out and get them next

The loss dropped the Pumas to 10-13 overall and 4-11 in the GLVC.

Saturday, February 14th brought another loss to the Pumas. They lost to Southern Illinois Edwardsville 75-63. The Pumas never gave up and they fought until the buzzer sounded. The Pumas were led by Goldie Ashford's career high 19 points. This was the second time that Ashford has reached his career high in scoring.

Ashford has not been doing anything differently during practice. He still has the same practice routine and he has stepped up his game.

"Since we lost three of our top scorers recently, I have tried to step up my game" Ashford stated.

Greg Taylor helped out with the Pumas' effort adding in 12 points and 8 rebounds. Ashford also said that Taylor has been stepping his game as well. Matt Metzger had another career high game this time with 6 assists and 4 steals.

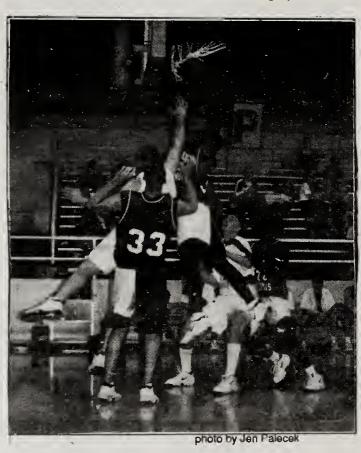
As the Pumas season is ending, they are looking towards the future and anticipating a better season next year.

When asked how he thought the team will do next season, Ashford was optimis-

"Everyone is planning on coming back and we really aren't losing anyone. Hopefully we will get a few good recruits that will add depth to our team" Ashford said.

Ashford plans on coming back to use his last year of eligibility and he also said that Andrew Moore is planning on returning to help out as an Assistant Coach.

The Pumas lost their last game of the season, Saturday versus Lewis 88-75.



The Pumas played hard but lost to SIUE 75-63

ranked Screaming Eagles of Southern Indiana 110-80. Assistant Coach Todd Foster led the Pumas in their valiant effort in place of Head Coach Bill Bland, The Pumas battled until the very end and their hard work and dedication was evident throughout the game. The team has just recently lost a couple of their players, but that has not stopped the teams determination to win.

The Pumas were led by Sophomore Matt Metzger's career high 19 points. Other Pumas scoring in double digits were Senior Goldie Ashford with 16 and Freshmen Brandon Yates had 14 Freshman Andy and

game and the most important thing right now is playing as a team. Anything that happens to me personally is a bonus."

Yates agrees Metzger has been having some great games recently, but explained, "It is not all about individuals playing great, it always has to be a team effort."

The team lost a very physical game to the Screaming Eagles, but never gave up in their effort.

Yates would like to end the season very strongly.

"I want to end the season on a positive note, but if that does not happen, we'll just

GAMES AND MEETS

Tuesday Feb. 24 WOMEN'S BAS-KETBALL vs. Lewis at Lewis 6p.m.

Friday Feb. 27 TRACK AND FIELD at Lewis Univer-

Saturday Feb. 28 MEN'S TENNIS at home vs. Anderson University 10p.m.

BASEBALL at home vs. University of St. Francis 12p.m.

SUPPORT YOUR

MEN AND WOMEN

PUMAS!!

In the Alley

by Marcy Janjecic

The pins are down and the winners are in the alley! Yes, IM Bowling has once again finished its season.

This year the winning team was Joe's B's which consisted of members Joe Vorrier. Denise Rybicki, Shannon Anderson, Tony Williams, and JoAnne Barrow. In second place was the team Men Men Men lead by senior captain, Andy Hicks. Sophomore Shannon Anderson remarked that the IM Bowling season "was a good time."

All together six teams competed in IM Bowling this semester. Senior coordinators, Kathy Braun and Joe Vorrier, enjoyed this season in particular, for it was their last as Saint Joseph's College students. If anyone is interested in coordinating IM Bowling next year, please contact Mark Settle.

Track Team Hopes to Qualify **Athletes for Indoor Nationals**

by Kevin Collins

The Saint Joseph's College men's and women's track teams are closing their indoor seasons out very strongly. Both teams have earned themselves the recognition of being nationally ranked. The Lady Pumas are ranked 17th while the men are ranked 21st in the NCAA Division II.

Both the men's and women's teams have several athletes within seconds, feet, or even inches of qualifying for the NCAA Division II Indoor Nationals. At this point, Sophomore, Becky Garza is the only athlete qualified, but Coach Massoels thinks this shall soon change. Indoor Nationals will be held at the RCA dorm in Indianapolis on March 13th and 14th.

In the teams' most recent action, they traveled to Ball State University for the Ball State Open. The top Puma performers at this meet were Chrissy Scafide (7th-200 meter dash-59.83), one second away from qualifying, Dana Collins (3rd-55 Hurdles-8.44), Kelly Fink (1st-High Jump-1.60m) just seven centimeters away from qualifying, Becky Garza (5thshot put-40'7 3/4"), and Jay Scafide (1st-55meter run-6.52) just .12 seconds away from qualifying. With so many athletes so close to their marks and times, Coach Massoels feels that the team has had a good indoor season.

"We have had a pretty solid season and now is the tough time of the year when it remains hard to be motivated. For this reason we will have to step up and strive very hard to reach the next level.'

The Pumas will travel to Lewis University this Friday. This meet will be the last indoor meet for the Pumas this

WITH HER FUTURE SARAH KREY GOES FORWARD

by Erin Breetzke

Beaming with an outgoing personality, and incredibly strong leadership abilities, Senior Sarah Krey is one member of the Saint Joseph's College ladies basketball team who is easy to pick out of the crowd.

Krey chose Saint Joseph's for many reasons, one being basketball, but when reflecting upon all she has experienced here, she has many more reasons for which chosing this school.

"Now I have all these friends and a good education when I graduate," she explained. "These are far greater benefits than I thought could have ever been...I'm glad I've been here all four years."

Playing power forward, as well as being the team



Sarah Krev

jokester who peps up everyone, Krey has always enjoyed basketball because it has always been a part of her

"I've always loved it. I

started playing in fifth grade, and maybe it was because my dad was a basketball coach," she stated. "It was probably because I was so much taller than everybody else," she said with a laugh.

Because basketball has been such a large part of her life, she has received many benefits from the game.

"It gets me in shape and makes me feel good about myself. I-also made many friends from the team," she stated.

Not only has the game benefited her physically and socially, but she has learned many lessons and life skills which she will carry on with her beyond graduation and into her future.

"You learn leadership skills, and how to cooperate and compromise with people," she said. "You really learn to work together with everybody."

Not only is Krey a member of the St. Joseph's basketball family, but she is also the oldest of five children in her familv back home in Decatur, Indiana. The closeness of her family has allowed her to develop into a strong person, and has also been a source of sup-

"My mom taught me to have a lot of confidence and self determination, [and] being the oldest, I grew up fast, and I learned a lot of independence," she explained.

With this independence, Sarah is ready to move on after graduation and is already lining up plans.

"I'd like to take a a couple weeks vacation and go white river rafting, or go out west. year!"

After that I'm looking to be located in Indianapolis," she said. "There's really no room for me back home anyway because my brothers and sisters have taken over everything," she said with a laugh.

No matter what she does with her future, her friends and teammates think Sarah will be a success. She has influenced their lives as much as she has been influenced by everyone around her.

Sarah's teammate, sophomore Monica Claridge respects Sarah as a friend and an athlete.

"She has always been a hard worker and has always given 100% on the court. She is a real fun person to be around and always brightens up practice every day. We'll miss her very much next

en's Basketball Team Way to the Conference Tournament

by Eric Schneider

Saint Joseph's women's basketball team has something to prove to their fans and themselves. Although the ladies have dropped games of late, they are still in the hunt for a place in the GLVC Conference Tournament.

Early last week, the Pumas lost to the fourth ranked Screaming-Eagles of Southern Indiana. Though it was close at the half, the Eagles were victorious 77-66. Angie Hupfer lead the Lady Pumas with her game high, twenty-three points. Tammie Williams and Tamara Bumpers each chipped in twelve points in the loss.

The Puma's woes did not end. Later in the week, the team lost to the Salukis of Southern Illinois University by the score of 73-68. In the game, the Lady Pumas were

points. Angie Hupfer added 13, Tammie Williams 12, and Mandy Witherby recorded a career high 11 points.

Though set on their course, the ladies still have a goal in mind; their shot to go to the 1998 Great Lakes Valley Tournament.

The Lady Pumas made their dream a reality when they defeated the Lewis Flyers at home on Saturday February twenty-first. The Lady Pumas were led by Angie Hupfer's season high twenty-nine points and Tamara Bumpers' career high twenty-four points. Tammie Williams also chipped in twenty points for the Lady Pumas who finished their regular season by placing seventh in the Great Lakes Valley Conference. The big win enables the

led by Jessika Henry's 18 Lady Pumas to participate in the conference tournament.

> Senior, Tammie Willams feels that the season has had it's ups and downs.

> "The season has been pretty turbulant for us, but in the end, we got the job done, and it shows in the fact that we advanced to the conference tournament."

> Teammate, Dawn Harvey agreed with Williams about the team's turbulant season.

"We're really excited to make it to the conference tournament. We had a pretty frustrating season; very up and down. We did not live up to the expectations we had for ourselves, but now we have the chance to prove ourselves. We're taking the tournament one game at a time and hopefully you'll see us in the championship game headed towards the NCAA regionals" Harvey stated.



photo by Jen Palecek

Tamara Bumpers shoots to score for the Lady Pumas.

Edge George Cho 1999 From Broken.

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Sand Bless configure and appear with part

Observer Stuff

OSCAR'S NO GROUCH

by Don Shanahan

Welcome again, movie buffs. Just as the title suggests, I'm branching off from the usual movie review to give you an Oscar preview. The Academy Awards are just around the corner, airing March 23. Here's a look at the sure bets, the long shots and the surprises among this year's Oscar nominations.

There's one word, actually one boat, that sums up what this years awards will be about. That word (and boat) is *Titanic*. It tied a record with 14 nominations and, because of its rave reviews and tremendous box office success, it very well could sweep most of the Oscar categories.

However, the acting performances of other films are keeping the Titanie "sweep" from cleaning house. First off, in the Best Actor category, look for Jack Nicholson (As Good As It Gets) to duke it out with Robert Duvall (The Apostle, which he also wrote and directed). The wild cards are Golden Globe winner Peter Fonda of Ulee's Gold and the fresh face of Good Will Hunting's Matt Damon. Damon may have to settle for the original screenplay award with co-star and friend, Ben Affleck.

The British dominate the Best Actress category. One American, As Good As It Gets' Helen Hunt, stands alone. She has a good chance in beating fellow Golden Globe winner Judi Dench of Mrs. Brown, critical favorite Helen Bohnam Carter of The Wings Of The Dove, and the luminous Kate Winslet from Titanic.

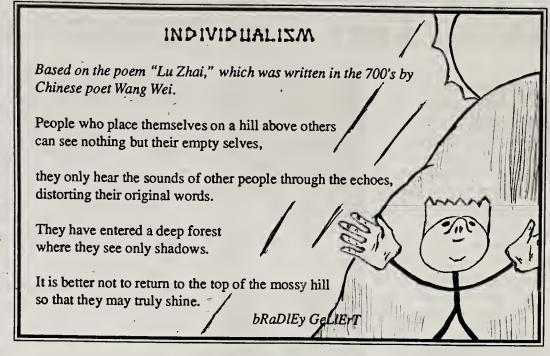
In the contest for Best Supporting Actor, the comeback kids and veterans reign. 70's fossils Burt Reynolds (Boogle Nights) and Robert Forester (Jackie Brown) are up for the title. Along with them, veterans Anthony Hopkins of Amistad and Robin Williams of Good Will Hunting are in the mix. Look for it to be between Reynolds and Williams here.

The Best Supporting Actress nominees are of all ages. 87 year-old Gloria Stuart of *Titanic* is the "old Hollywood" sentimental choice. But middle-age veterans (Kim Basinger, the frontrunner of *L.A. Confidential*; *Boogle Nights'* Julianne Moore; and *In And Out's* Joan Cusack) will most likely beat her out.

Last but not least is Best Picture and its mirror category of Best Director. James Cameron's sweeping, detailed epic *Titanic* should win out over all. The lone realistic chance alternative is *LA. Confidential*. It has been the overwhelming critical darling, winning many of the local critic's guild awards.

Titanic, though, should sweep the rest of the awards. It should clean up in the categories of Best Song, Best Dramatic Score, Best Art Direction, Best Cinematography, Best Visual Effects, and so on. And, in many ways it does deserve them. It truly was the best of the year.

The only setback regarding the Oscar nominations, in my opinion, was the lack of recognition given to African American performers. There were many outstanding performances from African Americans this year. Samuel L. Jackson (in everything he does - from Eve's Bayou to Jackie Brown), Pam Grier (Jackie Brown), Ving Rhames (Rosewood), the songs and heart of Soul Food, and Djimon Hounsou (Amistad) were all passed by. Spike Lee's documentary Four Little Girls is the lone African American nominee and it isn't fair at all. These performances deserve more recognition than they are receiving.



The Cover of Night

It's so strange how time gets away from us. One day everything is so good, so perfect, that time seems to stop. Then, the floor drops out from under you and you fall. You keep falling until you have nothing but your thoughts to keep you company... a dry feeling that creeps along the floor like smoke.

Walking along the desolate streets of New York makes me cringe. The rain doesn't make it any better. A wet, hard pressure on your back and shoulders that keeps you bundled in your coat. The rain is a living, breathing creature. It can kill, or it can heal. But right now it is my companion, whether I like it or not...

Amanda never thought that she was capable of doing this to me. She never had any idea that I would curl up inside myself and never say a word to her again. I need a drink. Yeah, that's it. Some whiskey, maybe? Some beer? Anything to purge her from my mind. Where to go? Anywhere but out in this cursed rain. I think that hole-in-the-wall bar down on Oak Blvd. and 13th Street sounds good.

Even now, though, sitting here with alcohol exploiting my weaknesses, I hold regrets. She never gave me the time of day, but I held on, getting played like a fool. That will never happen again. I can guarantee that much, at the least. Then again, I can't be sure of much anymore, so I guess I can't really guarantee anything. "Another round, my good man?" You can bet your life I'll have another.

As I look around the room, I see empty shells. I mean, come on, who spends quality time stuck in some rat infested hell-hole at 3am? Me for one. Look at that guy over there. God he must have a lot on his mind. Eyes concentrated on that one bottle of stale beer, not thinking, not moving. His wife probably left him. Sorry excuses for human beings, I tell you. That scrawny guy over in the corner, take him for example. What has he got to lose? His wife and kids, his mid-sized sedan? Maybe his precious 9 to 5 office job in the corporate high rise? I won't lose any sleep over him. His problems are far distant from my concerns. He lives in a world all his own. Me, I've truly got nothing to lose. I've already lost my Amanda.

My thoughts begin to wander as I slowly rise from the bar. Which way do I go? Where do I go from here? I think I'll go home. My apartment is only a few blocks away, so I'll walk. Public transportation is for people who don't want to see the real city. They pull the blinds and pretend that bad things don't happen. I used to think that way, but now I know better. I'm a smart person. Amanda made me that way.

The walk home is usually the worst part. Walking down empty sidewalks in the dark of night makes you think twice about your situation. You over-analyze and think too hard. There is only one right answer for me as I step into the entryway of the 21st Street Apartments. I shake off my coat and, with it, the weight of the long day. Only the stairs stand in my way.

I believe that this great, half-lit city of ours holds many secrets. I've revealed Amanda's, and now I have to come to a stopping point. I need to step back and relax. No use in worrying about things you can't change. Amanda also taught me that, and I'm a good student.